

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

This letter is responsive to the Office Action March 15, 2002. This Response is accompanied by a request for a 5-month extension of time. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that this Response is timely filed.

In the Office Action, the Examiner stated that the drawings filed on January 14, 2002 have been approved by the PTO Draftsperson.

In paragraph 2 of the detailed action, the Examiner objected to the abstract. The applicant has amended the abstract to include the comments raised by the Examiner. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully submits that the abstract now complies with the requirements of the Office.

The Examiner stated in paragraph 4 of the detailed action that the application contained two distinct inventions namely Invention I comprising claims 1-16 and Invention II comprising claims 17-22. The applicant hereby elects to proceed with examination of the application based upon Invention I (namely claim 1-16). The applicant hereby cancels the remaining claims without prejudice.

In paragraph 9 of the detailed action, the Examiner advised that the application contains claims directed to the four different distinct species of the claimed invention. The applicant was requested, under 35 USC 121, to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable.

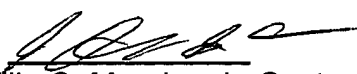
In the Response, the applicant elects to proceed with the species of Figures 4-9. The Examiner is advised that the following claims are readable on this embodiment namely, claims 1,7-10,15 and 16.

In paragraph 10 of the detailed action, the Examiner advised that a listing of reference in the specification is not a proper Information Disclosure Statement. The Examiner is advised that the applicant is filing concurrently herewith an Information Disclosure Statement.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made.**"

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,
Bereskin & Parr

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Abstract:

Please amend the abstract to read as follows:

A device ~~method~~ for filtering a dirty air stream in a vacuum cleaner to obtain a clean air stream includes ~~comprises~~ subjecting the dirty air stream to a first cyclonic separation stage to obtain a partially cleaned air stream and subjecting the partially cleaned air stream to an electronic filtration stage and optionally a second cyclonic separation stage to obtain the clean air stream. The electronic filtration stage is optionally removable with a cyclonic cleaning stage from the vacuum cleaner. The electronic filtration stage is optionally an electrostatic precipitator which utilizes air flow through the vacuum cleaner to generate the voltage used by the electrostatic precipitator.